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Cont

The geometry of the arrangement is such that when the lid is closed with the latch locked, upward forces on the lid tend to force the latch into a tighter closure.--

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please review, consider and approve the proposed changes to Figures 1, 2a and 3 shown in red on the attached marked up copies.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **CANCEL** claims 8 through 11, 15 through 17, 19, 23 through 29 and 34 through 38.

Please **AMEND** claims 1 through 7, 12 through 14, 18, 20 through 22, 30 through 33, 39 and 40 in accordance with the following clean iterations thereof. (Marked up iterations of the amended claims are set forth on an attachment to this amendment.)

Sub B4

1. (ONCE AMENDED) Structure providing access to an area beneath a floor, said structure comprising:

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- a segment of a floor having an upper surface and an opening therethrough;
- a floor covering on said upper surface of said floor segment;
- an access panel providing access to said area through said opening, said access panel including a floor frame located in the opening and a lid supported on the frame, said frame including a support flange extending therearound, said support flange being disposed so as to extend outwardly from the frame between the floor covering and the upper surface of the floor segment.

2. (ONCE AMENDED) Structure as set forth in claim 1, wherein the flange includes a ramped edge.

3. (ONCE AMENDED) Structure as set forth in claim 1, wherein the flange comprises two abutting parts formed from respective different materials.

4. (ONCE AMENDED) A rigid structural frame for an access panel providing access through a floor segment, said frame including a tapered, outwardly extending flange having a thickness which tapers substantially uniformly over a distance of at least 10 times the maximum thickness of the flange.

5. (ONCE AMENDED) Structure for an access panel comprising a rigid structural frame having an outer edge and a tapered flange formed from a soft non structural material disposed in abutting relationship to said outer edge.

6. (ONCE AMENDED) Structure as set forth in claim 5, wherein the flange is formed from a flexible polymeric material, and the same is attached to and disposed in overlying relationship to the outer edge.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) Structure as set forth in claim 6, wherein the flange is separate from the outer edge and presents a step portion arranged to mate with a corresponding recess on the outer edge.

12. (ONCE AMENDED) Structure comprising (1) a floor segment, (2) a floor covering on said floor segment, (3) a floor frame for an access panel providing access through said floor segment, said frame having a support flange extending around the periphery thereof, and (4) a lid supported on the frame, wherein the highest parts of the frame and lid do not project above the floor covering.

13. (ONCE AMENDED) A frame as set forth in claim 4 including a central, lid closable aperture and an upstanding rib which extends around said central, said rib being disposed between a peripheral edge of the flange and the central aperture and being arranged and

located such that the same does not project above a level down to which the pile of a carpet on the floor around the frame would crush under normal usage loads.

14. (ONCE AMENDED) A floor structure including a floor segment, a frame as set forth in claim 4 supported by the floor segment, and a lid for closing an aperture in said frame, the materials and construction of the frame and lid being such that the load bearing capacities thereof are not substantially less than that of the floor segment.

18. (ONCE AMENDED) A frame as set forth in claim 4, said frame being rectangular and being arranged and configured to define a pivot surface that extends parallel to and is spaced inwardly from an inner edge of the frame which abuts the floor segment and defines an aperture therein.

20. (ONCE AMENDED) A lid for use with an access panel for insertion into an opening in a barrier facilitating access through the barrier to cable services in communication with said opening, said lid including a hatch that is pivotally connected to a panel of the lid for movement between an open position providing an aperture in the lid through which cable services may extend and a closed position where no aperture is provided, said lid including a locking assembly that is adapted to be disposed between the hatch and a frame portion of the access panel and is operable to selectively lock the hatch in place in either said open or said closed position.

21. (ONCE AMENDED) A lid for use with an outlet facilitating access through a barrier to cable services, said outlet being adapted to be seated adjacent a surface of the barrier and in communication with an opening therethrough, said lid including a latch releasably securing the lid in a closed condition relative to the outlet and a hatch that is pivotally connected to a panel of the lid for movement between an open position providing an aperture in the lid

through which cable services may extend and a closed position where no such aperture is provided, the arrangement of said latch, hatch and lid panel being such that when the lid is latched and the hatch is open, neither the lid nor the hatch can be raised from a predetermined position by movement of cable.

22. (ONCE AMENDED) A lid for use with an outlet facilitating access through a barrier to cable services, said outlet being adapted to be seated adjacent a surface of the barrier and in communication with a hole therethrough, said lid comprising a panel formed from a rigid structural material and an overmoulding formed from a flexible polymeric material, said overmoulding defining at least one openable hatch.

30. (ONCE AMENDED) An access panel comprising a frame for insertion into an opening in a barrier, said frame defining an aperture and including an upstanding rib which extends around the aperture, said rib having a chamfered edge, said access panel including a lid for the aperture having a chamfered edge formed from a flexible material, the arrangement of said chamfered edges being such that a substantially waterproof sealing fit is provided between the lid and the upstanding rib.

31. (ONCE AMENDED) An access panel for insertion into an opening in a barrier, said access panel including a floor frame defining an aperture having a plurality of sides, said frame further including structure defining a closed channel extending along at least one side of the aperture.

32. (ONCE AMENDED) An access panel as set forth in claim 31, wherein the channel extends along two sides of the aperture.

33. (ONCE AMENDED) An access panel as set forth in claim 32, wherein the aperture includes at least four sides and the channel extends along four sides of the aperture.

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(ONCE AMENDED) A lid for use with an outlet facilitating access through a barrier to cable services, said outlet having a base surface adapted to be seated adjacent a surface of a barrier and in communication with a hole therethrough, said lid comprising a panel formed from a rigid structural material, said lid including a hatch which is pivotally mounted on said panel of the lid, the arrangement of the lid panel and hatch being such that the hatch is pivotable relative to the lid panel about an axis which is located on an opposite side of the lid from said base surface.

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(ONCE AMENDED) A lid as set forth in claim 39, wherein said axis is located in spaced relationship relative to a load bearing surface of the lid.

Please **ADD** the following new claims:

Sub 41

41. Structure as set forth in claim 5, 6 or 7, wherein the frame includes a central, lid closable aperture and an upstanding rib which extends around said central aperture, said rib being disposed between a peripheral edge of the flange and the central aperture and being arranged and located such that the same does not project above a level down to which the pile of a carpet on the floor around the frame would crush under normal usage loads.--

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42. A floor structure including a floor segment, structure as set forth in claim 5, 6 or 7 wherein the frame is supported by the floor segment, and a lid for closing an aperture in said frame, wherein the materials and construction of the frame and lid are such that the load bearing capacities thereof are not substantially less than that of the floor segment.--

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43. A floor structure including a floor segment and structure as set forth in claim 5, 6 or 7, said frame being supported by the floor segment, being rectangular and being arranged and configured to define a pivot surface that extends parallel to and is spaced inwardly